



AIEO UPDATE

Friends, Associates and Customers of AIEO: AIEO UPDATE is published at least four times each year to provide information on the activities of the USEPA's American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO). AIEO greatly encourages input and feedback. AIEO UPDATE is available through electronic mail and in the EPA AIEO Web Page under "What's New" and "Publications." Please contact Marlene Regelski at (202) 260-7284 or through e-mail (regelski.marlene@epa.gov) for more information or submissions you may have.

JUNE 2000

Web Page: <http://www.epa.gov/Indian>

NUMBER 10

AIEO NEWS

VACANCIES IN AIEO: AIEO is in the process of a national recruitment for the Deputy Office Director position; and for three other positions: Program Analyst, Environmental Protection Specialist and Environmental Scientist, at all levels GS -9 to GS-13. The announcements for the vacancies will be available on www.usajobs.gov. The closing date for all applications is August 4, 2000. Applications can be made from the internet site.

MEETINGS, OUTREACH, TRAVEL: This year, AIEO Director Kathy Gorospe has been focusing efforts on outreach at the national level. Since October 1999, Meetings and/or presentations with various Tribal organizations have included: the EPA Tribal Pesticides Council, Tribal Association on Solid Waste and Emergency Response, the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society, the National Tribal Environmental Council, and the Fifth National Conference on Tribal Environmental Management. This summer, Ms. Gorospe will participate in an environmental seminar at the national meeting of the Native American Journalists Association and the Inter-Agency Round Table on Environmental Justice scheduled for August in Albuquerque (see information below).

GPRA, BUDGET and LEADERSHIP NEWS

SENIOR LEADERSHIP COUNCIL (SLC) MEETING , JUNE 8: An SLC meeting was held June 8 in Washington DC to discuss the Agency's Program Goals and budget process. An update on the 2002 process also was provided. Office of Management and Budget guidance has finally been issued and Federal agencies are being requested to submit only "current services" budget proposals, deferring new proposals until after the elections in November when a new Administration assumes Office. Ways to improve GPRA implementation were discussed. Only two cross-goal issues were reviewed: a shorelands initiative being worked on primarily by Region 5 and the American Indian program. Kathy Gorospe provided an overview of preliminary findings from AIEO's strategic planning effort. Of most concern to her was the need fully "fit" the Tribal program into the GPRA framework and to address human resources needs within Tribal program.

STATUS OF 2001 EPA APPROPRIATIONS: From a Tribal programs perspective only. The final action by the House Appropriations Committee did not include the President's proposed increase in Clean Water SRF funds for Tribal waste water projects, nor language authorizing the Administrator to enter into cooperative agreements with Tribes to carry out federal environmental programs. The current House of Representative version of the appropriations bill does provide for a 10 million Tribal General Assistance Program increase and a one year only, lifting of the CWA 319, Non-point source grant cap. **AIEO contact: Dianne Baucom, (202) 260-8822, email: baucom.dianne@epa.gov**

OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

TRIBAL SCIENCE COUNCIL: Plans are underway to establish a Tribal Science Council by EPA's Office of Research & Development and the American Indian Environmental Office. In the near future, a memorandum from Dr. Norine Noonan, Assistant Administrator

for Research and Development and Chuck Fox, Assistant Administrator for Water, will go out inviting Offices to appoint a representative to be on the Council. In addition to Agency membership, and even more important, Tribal membership is being solicited. Organization is still very preliminary, but there is great support for this idea at EPA and in Indian Country. **AIEO contact:** **Marlene Regelski, (202) 260-7284; regelski.marlene@epa.gov**

OFFICE OF POLLUTION, PESTICIDES AND TOXIC SUBSTANCES

SUBSISTENCE: On May 31, Hal Zenick, Office of Research and Development's Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Science, initiated a meeting with OPPTS, OSWER, AIEO, and other EPA offices to discuss ways in which these and other headquarters offices (i.e. Water and Office of International Affairs) could join together to address Tribal subsistence issues. This was the first headquarters meeting of its kind. We are beginning an agency- wide effort to summarize all Regional and Headquarters Program Office projects in this area to enable us to: 1. ascertain what the issues are, 2. identify who is working on them, 3. find out what input we have had from Tribes and 4. form a consistent strategy to proceed. The informal work group will reconvene at a future date to review the inventory and continue discussions. **AIEO contact:** **Marlene Regelski, (202) 260-7284; regelski.marlene@epa.gov**

BASELINE ASSESSMENTS - *A specific objective of the EPA Strategic Plan is to work with Indian Tribes to assess Indian Country for its environmental conditions. The purpose of the Baseline Assessment of Indian Country is to assemble, in an easy to use and accessible format, the environmental data identified as most important to support sound environmental planning and management, both for the Tribes and for EPA.*

The **BASELINE ASSESSMENT** of environmental conditions in Indian country is in the data collection phase. Information is being collected from Federal information sources about environmentally regulated facilities and entities inside tribal reservation boundaries. The search at this time is limited to federally regulated facilities, although we know that many important facilities are regulated locally. Tribal knowledge will be very important in helping EPA fill those data gaps. In the coming months, we will share the information we have with Tribes to better evaluate the accuracy Federal information systems. This effort to collect the most accurate data is very important because it could ultimately influence future program funding. Tribes that want to participate in the baseline project should **Contact: Dr. Ed Liu, Email: liu.ed@epa.gov, or call (202) 260-9872.**

TRIBAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE: *The Tribal Operations Committee (TOC) consists of the EPA Senior Leadership Council from EPA HQs and Regions, and the Tribal Caucus - Tribal Representatives from each of EPA's Regions. Tribal Caucus members are selected by the Tribes in each Region. This group meets on a regular basis to discuss implementation of the environmental protection programs for which EPA and the Tribes share responsibility as co-regulators. All Tribes are encouraged to communicate with members of the TOC. A list of current Tribal Caucus Members is available through AIEO, Regions and on the AIEO Web Page at: <http://www.epa.gov/indian>*

SUMMER TRIBAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING: Because there is a different budget process this year, the regular schedule for the Tribal Operations Committee Meetings has changed. AIEO is working with the Administrator's office to get a commitment to hold a full TOC meeting for the end of July in Washington, DC. **AIEO Contact: Ben Smith, (202) 260-7939, email: smith.ben@epa.gov**

OTHER NEWS FROM PROGRAMS, REGIONS and PARTNERS- *News on Meetings, Publications, Training, Interagency Workgroups, etc.*

OFFICE OF SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE (OSWER)

BROWNFIELDS 2000 Conference

The **Brownfields 2000 Conference** will be held **October 11-13, 2000** in the Atlantic City (NJ) Convention Center. It will focus on the assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment of abandoned, idled or under-used commercial and industrial sites whose facilities have not been redeveloped due to real or perceived environmental contamination. Its program and exhibits will encourage and promote the exchange of information, procedures, and techniques related to the revitalization of brownfields sites. The 1999 Brownfields Conference in Dallas, TX, featured 65 sessions with over 250 speakers and 2300 participants. Registration for the conference is free; however, dinner and some other events may require a fee to be paid. Attendees may register online at:

<http://www.brownfields2000.org>, or by calling the Brownfields hotline at 1-800-343-5374.

TASWER/RCRA Conference

TASWER, Tribal Association on Solid Waste & Emergency Response, will hold a conference on August 10-11, 2000 in Washington, DC. Briefings will be given on present RCRA laws. Tribal input on the present language and how to improve the program will be solicited. A national RCRA Conference will be held the following week from August 15-17. **Contact Information: TASWER, Margie Hunt (202) 331-8084, Extension 221, 1001 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20036. Web site: www.taswer.org**

OFFICE OF AIR AND RADIATION

TRIBAL AIR GRANT ALLOCATIONS released to Regions: Robert Perciasepe, Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation has announced the final regional allocation of tribal air grants for FY 2000. The allocation shows a \$750,000 reduction from the FY 1999 allocation. This reduction was made to create a contract to support direct implementation of the Clean Air Act in Indian Country. This amount, in combination with the \$500,000 reserve to support the Northern Arizona University training agreement, results in a total regional allocation of \$9,818,000. **Agency Contact: David LaRoche, (202) 564-7416, email: laroche.david@epa.gov**

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

The **INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (IWG)** is sponsoring "A Roundtable to Address the Conceptual, Political, and Statutory Issues on Environmental Justice in Indian Country", August 3-4, 2000 at the Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute in Albuquerque, NM. The structured roundtable discussion will address pressing issues of environmental justice in Indian Country and among Alaska Native Tribes. The Federal partners directly supporting this project are the Environmental Protection Agency and Departments of: Energy; Interior; Health and Human Services; Housing and Urban Development; Defense; and Agriculture. **IWG Contact: at DOE: Jessica Alcorn, (202) 568-0798; fax: (202) 568-0293; email: jessica.alcorn@em.doe.gov. EPA Contacts: Daniel Gogal, (202) 564-2576, Gogal.Daniel@epa.gov, Or Deldi Reyes, EPA Region 8, Denver, CO; (303) 312-6055, reyes.deldi@epa.gov.**

OFFICE OF COOPERATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Federal Advisory Councils (FACs) are established by EPA to solicit input on regulations under development. Participation in a FAC provides an opportunity for Tribal (and other) Governmental representatives to have an impact on the direction of a regulation early in the development process when changes are more easily incorporated. EPA is seeking Tribally affiliated participants who might be willing to participate in a FAC. If interested, please contact: **Alicia Lyttle, (202) 564-9741, email: lyttle.alicia@epa.gov**